

THESIIUM LINOPHYLLON IN NORTH DAKOTA, A FIRST RECORD FOR NORTH AMERICA.—In July, 1943, Mr. William J. Leary, extension agronomist, brought me several stalks of a strange plant which he had found near Cando, Towner County, North Dakota. About September 1, Mr. Woodrow Wieland, county extension agent at Cando, secured for me additional material, some of which has been distributed under my No. 754. Dr. N. C. Fassett identified the plant as a species of *Thesium* and suggested that he believed this was the first record of it for North America. Later Dr. M. L. Fernald examined one of the sheets and reported that it agreed very well with *T. Linophyllum* L. of Europe.

On May 26, 1944, Mr. Wieland again sent specimens then showing a vigorous growth about two dm. high, but not yet in bloom. On June 13, I was able to visit the location. The plants were then in full bloom and had as many as 40 stems arising from one root. The appearance of the plant with slender, tufted stems, 3–5 dm. high, with slender leaves and many small white flowers, solitary but pedicelled in the axils, is scarcely like anything else in our flora.

The plant seems to be quite common in Europe and while not mentioned in most weed books, one might well have expected that it would have appeared in America earlier.

On account of its reported parasitic habit on roots of other plants we did some digging, but we had arrived just between two hard showers so our studies were rather brief. The plants were scattered for some rods along two sides of a field and surrounding plants were mostly *Bromus inermis*. The field was planted to grain and neither it nor its history was investigated. On account of the location of the plants, the suggestion is rather strong that seeds of the *Thesium* may have been introduced with *Bromus* seed. We did find a number of white, tubercle-like bodies about 1 mm. in diameter, closely attached to old rhizomes of *Bromus*. These seemed to grow from fine branches of the *Thesium* roots.—O. A. STEVENS, North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo, North Dakota.